

Rolling Home

It was only written in the 1970s but this song by John Tams comes right out of the English folk style, and is readily recognisable to many in our audiences who then join in with a rousing chorus. The verses - usually sung as a solo - set out the unjust difference between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots', and then celebrate the collective strength of those who labour.

We learnt it from the Sheffield-based singer Roy Bailey, and have enjoyed singing with him and Jim Woodland, another local singer, on many occasions. The arrangement is by Tony Hindle of Rotherham Red Choir.

Rolling Home by John Tams

**Round goes the wheel of fortune. Don't be afraid to ride.
There's a land of milk and honey waits on the other side.
There'll be peace and there'll be plenty. You'll never need to roam.
When we go rolling home, when we go rolling home.**

Chorus:

**Rolling home, when we go
Rolling home, when we go
Rolling, rolling,
When we go rolling home.**

**And the gentry in their fine array do prosper night and morn
While we into the fields must go to plough and sow the corn.
The rich may steal the power, but the glory's ours alone.
When we go rolling home, when we go rolling home.**

Chorus

**The summer of resentment. The winter of despair.
The journey to contentment is set with trap and snare.
Stand true and stand together. Your labour is your own.
When we go rolling home, when we go rolling home.**

Chorus

**The frost lies on the hedgerows and the icy winds do blow
While we poor weary labourers strive through the driving snow.
Our dreams fly up to glory - up where larks have flown.
When we go rolling home, when we go rolling home.**

Chorus

**So pass the bottle round and let the toast go free.
Here's a health to every labourer wherever they may be.
Fair wages now and ever. Let's reap what we have sown.
When we go rolling home, when we go rolling home.**

Chorus

Rolling Home

Words and music by John Tams. Arranged by Tony Hindle.

VERSE

(British)

Round goes the wheel of for-tune, don't be a-fraid to ride.
There's a land of milk and ho-ney waits on the o-ther side.
There'll be peace and there'll be plen - ty: You'll ne-ver need to roam.

The verse consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a 7-measure rest. The second staff ends with a 7-measure rest. The third staff ends with a 7-measure rest.

CHORUS

When we go rol - ling home, when we go rol - ling home.
Rol - ling home Rol - ling home
Rol - ling home when we go rol - ling home when we go
Rol - ling home Rol - ling home

The chorus is written for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The Soprano part is in treble clef, and the other three parts are in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is a single line for the Soprano. The second staff is a four-part setting for the other three voices. The third staff is a single line for the Soprano. The fourth staff is a four-part setting for the other three voices. The fifth staff is a single line for the Soprano. The sixth staff is a four-part setting for the other three voices.

Rol - ling rol - ling when we go rol - ling home.

This block continues the four-part setting of the chorus for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices. It consists of four staves of music in G major and 4/4 time, with lyrics written below the notes.